THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce maintains data on total exports according to commodities and countries, and not by Sectors like Small Scale Sector, Large Scale Sector, etc. However, according to data received from the office of DC(SSI), the share of small scale sector in total exports was 27.78 per cent, 27.05 per cent and 27.55 per cent during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 respectively.

Export of Agriculture Products

1022. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what steps are being taken by Government to increase the export of agriculture products from India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): The Government introduced a package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives, eliminating substantial volume of import licensing and optimal import compression. REP licences have been replaced by a new instrument named Exim Scrips. These will be the means of obtaining access to certain categories of imports of raw materials, components and spares. The system of advance licensing as an instrument of export promotion has also been strengthened. Government has decided to allow established exporters to open foreign currency accounts in approved banks and allow exporters to raise external credits, pay for export related imports from such accounts and credit export proceeds to such accounts. Besides, Government have taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activisation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussion with selected countries, interaction with national organisations of trade and industry, etc.

Export Policy in respect of certain agricultural commodities has been liberalised by shifting of items which were earlier subject to ceiling to the list of items allowed for export under OGL, and also by de-controlling the export of selected agricultural commodities. The exchange rate adjustment will benefit agricultural exports also.

Production of Tea in Assam

1023. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual production of tea in Assam and what percentage it constitutes of the total produce of tea in the country;

(b) what is the amount of foreign exchange earned by exporting Assam-Tea during the year 1990-91; and

(c) what amount of money was gained through duty and levy by Assam Government during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Table below gives the trend of annual production of tea in Assam and its percentage to the total production of the country during the last three years:

Year	Prod. in Assam (M. Kgs.)	Percentage of total prod.
1988 . . .	369·43	52·77
1989 . .	378·73	55·36
1990 . . .	379·89	53·16

(b) State-wise export earnings statistics are not maintained.

(c) As this relates to duty and levy by Assam Government, the information is not available at present and will be collected.